

all of us. We have to come to some kind of a consensus here and we have to talk about all the issues. I think maybe we... some of the farmers are thinking here of the old saying, it's better to give than receive, but we can't do this too often because after a while you're going to come out on the minus side. So I just want everybody to take a fair look at this here and not go for the dollar, dollar trade-off, whether it's going to benefit me more than you or whatever. Let's think the whole community. But I'm just wanting to relay that message that the Gothenburg area has been after this Frito-Lay plant, big plant coming to the Gothenburg area and purchasing corn all over Nebraska you might say with the interstate highways and so on, it's not just good for one area, but good for all of Nebraska and let's keep that in mind. What is good for them might be good for us too. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I stand in support of Senator Schrock's amendment. I feel that agriculture is the backbone of this state's economy and I feel that we need to support this, looking at in comparison to what other states are paying. Senator Beutler said that our market share had increased 10 percent, but no one has mentioned that our prices have decreased 14 percent since last year and I just say, you know, how long... we have a son that just joined us in the farming operation and we'd like for him to be able to stay and continue the farming operation that has been in our family for five generations. So I hope that we can look at this issue together and stand in support that it will benefit all of Nebraska as Senator Cudaback said. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator McKenzie

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I want to address one of the other aspects of the bill and the amendment that we have danced around but not talked about. I handed out for your information a chart that shows the amount from the excise tax and then the amount from General Funds. Now I just want to... I'm afraid I'm going to sound a little like Senator Moore and that really is frightening to me, but if you look at the difference between a three-quarter cent checkoff and a half cent checkoff this is the first time we are doing what I consider an up front, clean cut, good tax policy approach to solving this problem. We're not shifting something from one